The Central Government, on the recommendation of an Expert Committee which was constituted by the Government of India, have identified seven institutions in the country which are proposed to be upgraded to the level of an IIT. Osmania University College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad and Andhra Pradesh College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, are amongst the seven institutions identified for this purpose. In order to upgrade the infrastructure to the level of IIT of the above two institutions, Rs. 7.00 crores to Osmania University College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad and Rs. 8.00 crores to Andhra Pradesh College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, have been released during the current financial year 2006-07.

Power generation by 2020

*2. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have the capacity to generate 21,180 Megawatts of electricity by 2020, under its calculated power programme;

(b) whether the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) had also submitted certain proposals in this regard to the Committee of Secretaries in early December, 2006; and

(c) if so, the number of proposals examined by the said Committee and what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The present nuclear power capacity of 3900 MWe in the country is expected to increase to 7280 MWe by the end of Eleventh Plan on completion of projects already under construction. The Eleventh Plan proposals envisage commencement of work on 8x700 MWe of indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) totaling 5600 MWe capacity by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL). Four Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) of 500 MWe each are planned to be executed by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI Ltd.) by 2020. Thus, a capacity of about 15000 MWe is planned to be reached by 2020 only through indigenous efforts by the two Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (namely, NPCIL

and BHAVINI Ltd.) set up for this purpose. The efforts of the Government to access imported reactors and fuel through international cooperation would open up the possibility of further capacity addition reaching a capacity well beyond 20,000 MWe by the year 2020. However, achieving such capacity addition by NPCIL will depend upon future developments in this regard.

(b) Department of Atomic Energy have not submitted any proposal for setting up of neclear power plants for consideration of the Committee of Secretaries.

(c) Does not arise.

Begging by children

†*3. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of children in the country are either engaged in begging or being used as means of begging;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect them from such exploitation;

(c) whether Government are aware that several anti-social organisations are engaged in these activities who torture these innocent children after kidnapping and make them source of their income by forcing them to beg; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to salvage these tiny kids from such in-human and exploitating situation and whether these measures have proved to be effective; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Beggary is an intricate problem having socio-cultural and economic ramifications. It is also a kind of wanton deviation on the part of those who beg willfully, habitually and professionally. Hence, it is a law & order problem also. The main action to prevent beggary lies with the State Government/Union Territories.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.